(b) the procedure for reviewing periodically whether these guidelines are observed; and

(c) the number of instances since 1991-92 where the Commission has taken action against Universities flouting the guidelines and the nature of such punitive action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Telephone Facilities in Railway Coaches

608. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:
SHRI GOVIND RAM MIRI:
SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Minister has recently made announcement that telephone facilities will be made available in the Railway Coaches;

(b) if so, when will this scheme be effective;

(c) how much money will be spent on this;

(d) whether any pilot project has been undertaken with respect to this and if so, what are its results; and

(e) whether this facility will be of the advanced type like the one available in Western Countries or will it be of the older type which is already discarded in the developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to introduce this service for use of travelling passengers initially in the New Delhi-Mumbai Rajdhani Express after finalisation of logistics and tariffs. Later on, this service will be extended to other important mail/express trains depending on success and popularity of this scheme.

(c) The cost of equipments and accessories per train is about Rs. 10 lakh.

(d) A pilot project was undertaken by Indian Railways jointly with Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited and INMARSAT organisation to evaluate the possibility of providing telecommunication services on superfast trains using satellite communication system. The trials were conducted on New Delhi-Mumbai Rajdhani Express and Broad Gauge 'Palace on Wheels' trains and the trials were successful.

(e) This is the state-of-the-art technology based on satellite communication. INMARSAT had developed this technology initially for providing communication to ships. With the advancement in the technology of tracking antennae, it has become feasible to provide telecommunication services using this technology in high speed trains and aircraft. It is currently being used in many airlines all over the world.

Conversion of Madras-Egomore-Madurai Railway Line

609. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there had been a consistent demand from the Members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu for conversion of metre gauge into broad gauge line from Madras-Egomore to Madurai;

(b) if so, whether Government will consider this demand; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to survey the distance involved before undertaking broad gauge line construction in this section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The work is already in progress and would be completed by March, 1998.

Fire in Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.

610. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fire took place in Paradeep Phosphates Ltd;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted into the incidents;